AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) A method of synchronizing data in a multi-user computer network, comprising:

    accessing a record from a database for a first user;

    accessing the record for a second user while the first user is accessing the record;

    requesting a first change to the record by the first user to a network server;

    determining by the network server whether the first change to the record is authorized; and

    if the first change is authorized, updating the ~~record with the~~ first change to the record for both the first user and the second user substantially simultaneously while the first user and the second user are accessing the record.

2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the database is stored on a hard disk operating under control of the network server.

3. (canceled)

4. (canceled)

5. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of making the first change to the record available to the second user is executed by the network server.

6. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the first user operates a first workstation running application software which utilizes the record and the second user operates a second workstation running application software which utilizes the record at substantially the same time as the application software on the first workstation is utilizing the record.

7. (original) The method of claim 6 wherein the application software running on the second workstation executes using the first change to the record.

8. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 further including:

requesting a second change to the record by the second user to the network server;

the network server checking for an authorization to make the second change to the record; and

upon authorization by the network server, updating the second change to the record for both the first user and the second user substantially simultaneously while the first user and the second user are accessing the record.

9. (currently amended) A method of synchronizing data in a multi-user computer network, comprising:

accessing a record from a database for a first user;

accessing the record for a second user while the first user is accessing the record;

requesting a first change;

processing the first change to the record through a controller of the database; and

updating the first change to the record for both the first user and the second user substantially simultaneously while the first user and the second user are accessing the record.

10. (canceled)

11. (previously presented) The method of claim 9 wherein the database is stored on a hard disk operating under control of a network server.

12. (original) The method of claim 11 wherein the step of requesting the first change to the record is made to the network server.

13. (original) The method of claim 12 wherein the authorization for the first change to the record is made by the network server.

14. (previously presented) The method of claim 13 wherein the step of updating the first change to the record for both the first user and the second user is executed by the network server.

15. (previously presented) The method of claim 9 wherein the first user operates a first workstation running application software which utilizes the record and the second user operates a second workstation running application software which utilizes the record at substantially the same time as the application software on the first workstation is utilizing the record.

16. (original) The method of claim 15 wherein the application software running on the second workstation executes using the first change to the record.

17. (currently amended) The method of claim 9 further including:
requesting a second change to the record by the second user;
receiving an authorization to make the second change to the record; and
updating the second change to the record for both the first user and the second user substantially simultaneously while the first user and the second user are accessing the record.

18. (currently amended) A multi-user computer system, comprising:

means for accessing a machine readable record from a database for a first user;

means for accessing the machine readable record for a second user while the first user is accessing the machine readable record;

means for requesting a first change to the machine readable record by the first user;

means for checking for an authorization to make the first change to the machine readable record; and

means for updating the first change to the machine readable record for both the first user and the second user substantially simultaneously while the first user and the second user are accessing the machine readable record, if the authorization is granted.

19. (currently amended) The multi-user computer system of claim 18 further including:

a network server controlling the database;

a first workstation coupled to the network server and running application software which utilizes the machine readable record; and

a second workstation coupled to the network server and running application software which utilizes the machine readable record at substantially the same time as the application software on the first workstation is utilizing the machine readable record.

20. (currently amended) The multi-user computer system of claim 19 wherein the application software running on the second workstation executes with the first change to the machine readable record upon receiving the first change to the machine readable record.

21. (currently amended) The multi-user computer system of claim 18 further including:

means for requesting a second change to the machine readable record by the second user;

means for receiving an authorization to make the second change to the machine readable record; and

means for updating the second change to the machine readable record for both the second user and the first user substantially simultaneously while the second user and the first user are accessing the machine readable record.

22. (currently amended) A method of utilizing data in a multi-user computer system, comprising:

accessing a record from a database to perform a first function on a first network node;

accessing the record to perform a second function on a second network node while the first network node is accessing the record;

processing a first change to the record on the first network node by the network server; and

updating the record according to the first change for both the first network node and the second network node substantially simultaneously while the first network node and the second network node are accessing the record.

23. (original) The method of claim 22 wherein the database is stored on a hard disk operating under control of a network server.

24. (original) The method of claim 23 wherein the authorization for the first change to the record is made by the network server.

25. (original) The method of claim 24 wherein the step of making the first change to the record accessible to the second network node is executed by the network server.

26. (previously presented) The method of claim 22 wherein the first network node and the second network node run application software which utilizes the record at substantially the same time.

27. (previously presented) The method of claim 26 wherein the application software running on the second network node executes using the first change to the record.

28. (original) The method of claim 22 wherein the first and second functions involve bidding and estimation on a construction project.